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TAKAMAGAHARA

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CHAPTER 13: EMISHI

KAWAI JUUZOU

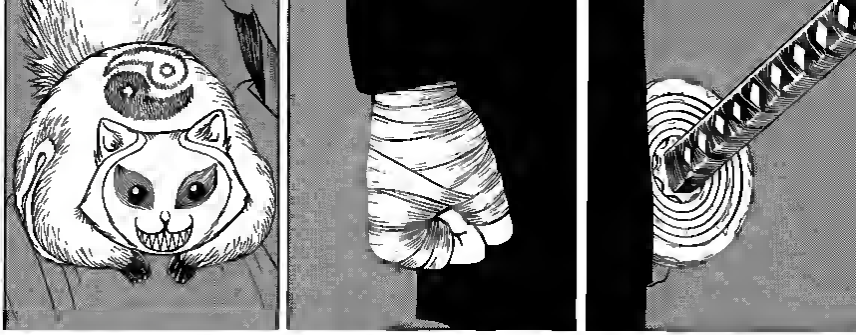
THE ROOKIES ADVANCE PROUDLY!!

IT'S KINDA HARD TO EVEN GATHER INFORMATION LIKE THIS.
EVERY SINGLE CLASS-ROOM'S EMPTY.
LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S HERE.

IT WAS A BATTLE OF SUPERPOWERS, LIKE SOMETHING IN ONE OF THE MANGA I WAS RAISED BY! IT WAS SO COOL!
THAT DIVINE GIFT-WIELDING SQUAD OF DELINQUENTS WAS AMAZING!

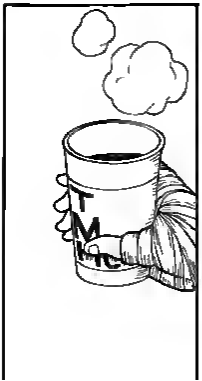
ALTHOUGH ...

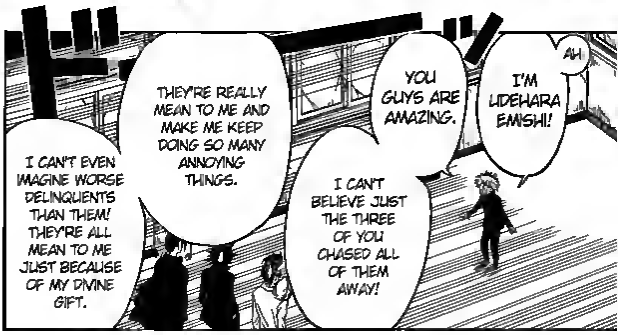
!
IS JUST ABOUT TO ROUND THAT CORNER!
MAYBE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE A FRIGGIN' MONSTER
AH!
※ EMISHI'S VIEWPOINT
STARE!!!!
.....
PEEK
HE CAME BACK!
SFX: DASH
HE RAN AWAY
?



WE AREN'T A TEAM!
THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY.
SO? WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

A KATANA, A BANDAGED FIST, AND A FLYING SQUIRREL?
ARE YOU THE THREE TEAMMATES WHO BEAT UP THE DELINQUENTS IN MY CLASS?




I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WORSE DELINQUENTS THAN THEM! THEY'RE ALL MEAN TO ME JUST BECAUSE OF MY DIVINE GIFT.
THEY'RE REALLY MEAN TO ME AND MAKE ME KEEP DOING SO MANY ANNOYING THINGS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE JUST THE THREE OF YOU CHASED ALL OF THEM AWAY!
YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING.
AH.
I'M UDEHARA EMISHI!

AND THANKS FOR THE COFFEE.
OH,
I THINK I GET YOUR SITUATION.
OK,
TMH Drink
FOR INSTANCE, I KNEW ONE PERSON WHOSE DIVINE GIFT WAS THAT A SUPER LONG NOSE HAIR WOULD CONTINUOUSLY GROW FROM HER RIGHT NOSTRIL,
AND ANOTHER WHO COULD TURN A WHOLE BOWL'S WORTH OF RICE DEEP BLUE
THAT WOULD SUCK...
JUST LIKE THERE'S PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO ARE DULL IN THE MUNDANE WORLD, THERE'S PEOPLE HERE IN TAKAMAGAHARA WHO ARE DULL, TOO.
NOT EVERY DIVINE GIFT IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL EITHER IN BATTLE OR DURING YOUR DAILY LIFE.
Ha Ha Ha
SFX (ABOVE THE LIVES COUNTER): BA-BEEP
THAT'S REALLY USELESS...
BUT NOT SO MUCH IN THE REAL WORLD.
IT'S REALLY USEFUL IN GAMES,
MY DIVINE GIFT IS "ONE UP", WHICH ALLOWS ME TO INCREASE MY NUMBER OF LIVES IN A VIDEO GAME BY ONE.
HUH?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT MY DIVINE GIFT IS?
ISN'T IT A BIG DEAL TO REVEAL YOUR DIVINE GIFT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I GAIN ANYTHING FROM KEEPING IT A SECRET
IT'S FINE
.....

DO YOU PLAY GAMES, IZUMO-KUN?
HUH?!
NOT REALLY; JUST GUN SHOOTING GAMES...
BEING THE KING OF THE GAMING WORLD WOULD BE PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?
WELL,
THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF ANY SKILL IS HOW YOU USE IT.
SFX. TAPTAPTAPTAPTAPTAPTAP
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YAMATO-KUN?!
DO YOU PLAY, YAMATO-KUN?!
ME?
I PLAY SOME FIGHTING GAMES, BUT...
FIGHTING GAMES?! YOU PLAY VIRTUA? OR DO YOU PREFER TEKKEN?
.I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU JUST SAID.
I DON'T KNOW HOW USEFUL THIS WILL BE,
BUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS, MY LITTLE BROTHER WOULD ALWAYS TELL ME, "FOR NOW, JUST KICK THEIR ASSES!"
I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE THAT USEFUL...
That really only works if you're strong.
WELL,
THE NEXT TIME THOSE GUYS START BULLYING YOU, YOU SHOULD GET SOME PAY-BACK
IF YOU DON'T, THINGS WILL NEVER CHANGE.
MY HOBBY AND MY SPECIALTY ARE GAMES!
MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME FROM MY APPEARANCES AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS.
DOES "UDEHARA" RING ANY BELLS?
Does it?

HUH?
MAYBE, IF I HIT SOMEONE,
I'D GAIN SOME CONFIDENCE!
!
I HAVEN'T EVER EVEN HIT ANYBODY.
I MEAN,
THE HELL ?!
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?!
LET ME PUNCH YOU!
YAM-ATO-KUN,
SFX. *GLARE*
チラ
WHOA!
YOU WANNA GET CUT IN HALF, CAW?!
I'M SORRY!
YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT!
HELL NO!
THEN I KNOW THINGS WILL CHANGE FOR ME! SO PLEASE!
I WON'T HIT YOU TOO HARD! SO LET ME HIT YOU!
PLEASE! LET ME HIT YOU!

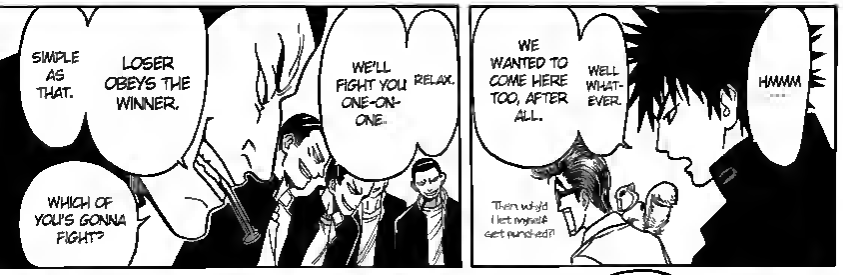
WELL, GUESS THAT SETTLES IT.
IF IT WILL REALLY HELP YOU,
I'LL BITE THE BULLET AND LET YOU HIT ME.
MUSA
HUH? REALLY?
YEAH
HIT ME AS HARD AS YOU WANT.
ゴゴゴゴゴ
OK!

SFX. *ROAR*

TAKE THIS!
BOOP
THAT WAS JUST PATHETIC!
IF THAT'S ALL YOU GOT, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU COULD EVEN BEAT MIZUHO

WHOA!
SFX. SLAM
YOU GOT ME!
NICE ONE...
OW OW OW OW
TRASH CAN: COMBUSTIBLE TRASH

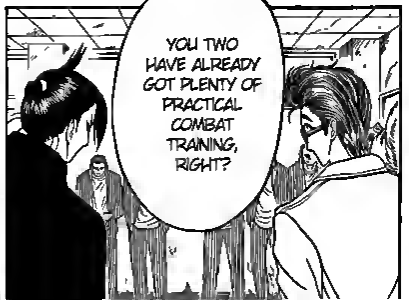
!
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING US ABOUT THE BOSS OF THE GUYS WHO ATTACKED US?
IN EX-CHANGE,
YOU'RE WELCOME.
I FEEL LIKE I'M MORE CONFIDENT NOW!
THANK YOU, IZUMO-KUN!
THAT WAS A PRETTY NICE PUNCH
HE'S REALLY STRONG. HE BEAT UP EVERYONE ELSE HERE AND MADE HIMSELF THEIR BOSS.
I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW HIS DIVINE GIFT WORKS.
IS OOKI TAIJU. HE WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS ME BEFORE WE CAME HERE.
THEIR BOSS
SFX. *SMACK*
TAKE US TO HIM!
ALL RIGHT!


SIMPLE AS THAT.
LOSER OBEYS THE WINNER.
WE'LL FIGHT YOU ONE-ON-ONE.
RELAX.
WHICH OF YOU'S GONNA FIGHT?

WE WANTED TO COME HERE TOO, AFTER ALL.
WELL WHATEVER.
HMMM...
Then why'd I let myself get punished?!

!

I WANNA GET A HANDLE ON THIS.
LET ME HAVE THIS ONE.


YOU TWO HAVE ALREADY GOT PLENTY OF PRACTICAL COMBAT TRAINING, RIGHT?

BUT THEY TOLD ME TO BRING YOU HERE.
I'M SORRY, GUYS.

AH, I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE LATE, EMISH!!

YOU READY?
IF YOU LOSE, WE'LL CUT YOUR HAIR AS SHORT AS OURS AND CUT A LINE IN IT!
SFX: "CHEERS"

DON'T LET THEM TOUCH MY HAIR!
YAMATO-CHAN, EVEN IF IT COSTS YOU YOUR LIFE,
YOU BETTER NOT LOSE!
CAW?!

*SHIMENAWA ARE LENGTHS OF STRAW ROPE USED FOR RITUAL PURIFICATION IN THE SHINTO RELIGION.

FIRST, LET'S SEE HOW MY DIVINE GIFT FARES.

I MIGHT WANT TO WAIT AND SEE, BUT...
FOR STARTERS, WHAT KIND OF DIVINE GIFT DOES HE HAVE?

!

I'LL PUT HIM ON HIS BACK BEFORE HE EVEN HAS A CHANCE TO USE HIS DIVINE GIFT!

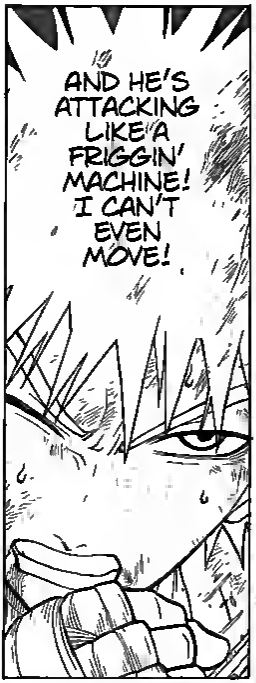
WHAT'S THIS SENSA-TION?

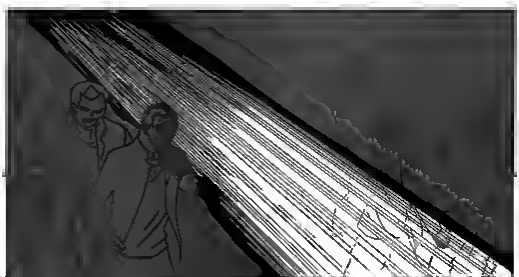
WHAT'S THIS?

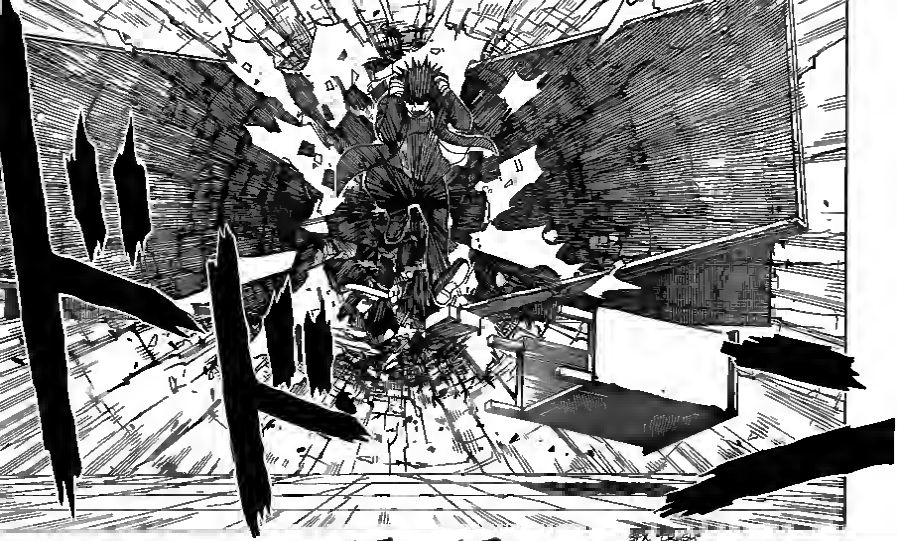
HE'S TOO FAST!!
!
!?
HE DISAP-PEAR-ED?
WHAT WAS WITH THAT ATTACK?
HOW'D HE HIT ME?!

SFX. "CHEERS"

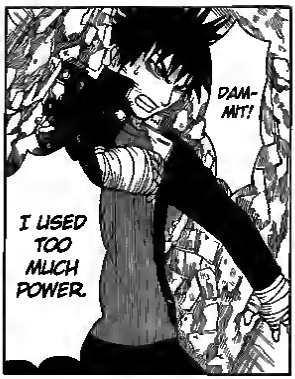
SFX. "CHEERS"







SFX. "CHEERS"



SFX. "CHEERS"

☆ HAS YAMATO FIGURED IT OUT?